# THE NEGRO NEEDS EDUCATION

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*The Negro Needs*

# EDUCATION

Vol. I APRIL, 1935 No. 1.

## SPECIALS

TAKE NOTICE (A Poem) Anonymous

EDITORIALS

WHAT IS YOUR NAME? (Short Story) By A. Dugan

*Why I believe that the United States will remain a constitutional democracy for several generations to come* *By H. S. McFarland*

*Published by*
NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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# AGENTS WANTED

**ATTRACTIVE TERMS**

◆

THIS IS A CHANCE FOR GO-GETTERS

TO PROVE THEIR WORTH

◆

*Write*

**NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY**

3142—104th STREET, CORONA, L. I.

*or*

654 ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 1935

# EDUCATION

*Published Monthly by*

NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY

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## PLATFORM

A 1 *The education of our people.*
2 *The advertisement of the virtues rather than the vices of our people.*

B 1 *In view of the fact that discrimination hinders rather than aids the progress of a nation, the urgent need for employment of our people in more varied fields than now exists, is obvious.*

2 *In view of the rapid progress of our people since emancipation, inherent ability and competence as a part of their make-up cannot be justly denied. Consequently encouragement and promotion of Negro initiative and businesses on a larger scale.*

C *Whereas housing and housing conditions are deplorable and whereas unscrupulous landlords, taking advantage of the congestion which now exists in Harlem, have resorted to the exploitation of our people in the community, a peaceful, intelligent solution is advocated.*

D *Proper representation of our people in State and National legislatures.*

# EDITORIALS

## A NEW BIRTH

The conception and birth of this periodical have taken years in embryonic development; in fact, it would have taken longer had a deplorable incident not occurred. From years of study and observation this writer had long concluded that although there were many Negro social welfare and kindred societies, there was a crying need for education among our people. But how and when would he be able to have an authority, secure in the belief that all was well, and a boiling, dissatisfied people, listen to such "tommyrot," as one "gentleman" titled it, he hadn't the slightest idea. He awaited patiently an opportunity, however. This terrible "race riot" in Harlem a couple of weeks or so ago, revolting tho it be in almost every phase,

## EDITORIALS, (Continued)

has offered the courtesy of a hand. And so the community, for better or for worse, has an increase in population—a new birth.

### WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Education does not necessarily mean the stamp of approval on anyone by a Board of Education or by a recognized educational institution. Education is general knowledge systematically acquired and intelligently expended. General knowledge is as plentiful and as free as fresh air. But because men do not have to live off this precious asset, many, because of their ignorance of its intrinsic value, have paid little or no attention to it; some feeling that it can benefit only certain classes, have deliberately ignored it; others for miscellaneous reasons, are without it; and still others, having no desire to divorce themselves from servitude, are, like the worm, ground underfoot from day to day for lack of it. (Hardly anything can be done for this last group.) Negroes of these groups are the more pathetic, being discriminated and segregated against. Further handicapped by economic and various other disagreeable reasons, they are easily the prey of unscrupulous designers. Negro Needs Society and EDUCATION hope to reveal to these unfortunates, more than to any other, the virtues and benefits of education.

### AN APPEAL

Infancy is indeed one of the most dependent stages of life. When a child is ushered into this world, it is given every assistance both by its parents and by society until it reaches its majority. There is no difference between the birth of a child and the birth of a periodical except that a child may live with parental attention alone, but *certain* death awaits a periodical without the support of the public. With this in mind, Negro Needs Society appeals to its community, to stout hearted Americans and to the general public on the grounds of its programme which is listed above to support EDUCATION which hopes to benefit and to improve not only the Negro and his condition but America.

• • •

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Article on the hearings of the Mayor's Board investigating the Harlem "race riot."

Article on the Scottsboro case.

These articles will appear in our next issue. Don't miss reading them.

• • •

### WANTED

Writing talent. Men and women who have writing ability are requested to communicate with EDUCATION.

# Why I Believe That The United States Will Remain A Constitutional Democracy For Several Generations To Come

*By* H. S. McFARLAND

Basically mankind think alike. Breaking up into peoples and latterly into nations did not injure or alter much the primary thought of human beings, namely safety from attack and freedom of speech. Born with this natural instinct, from earliest times until the present day, they were made to pay for the one and taught that the other was only a privilege. Of course men wondered! But since some were stronger and more ingenious than others, the former managed generally if not always to impose their will upon the latter. And so we had tribes, kingdoms, empires and most recently democracies. The first three, symbolic of the growth of tyranny, the last, the result of tyranny, like a rubber strand, stretched too far.

Singling out the United States of America as an exemplary democracy, I feel that I am taking no chances, as in a gamble.

In the first place SOPHISTICATION which is a most valuable phase of education is the prize asset of the American people, obtained thru the Constitution itself and preserved by the press, educational and other institutions of the nation. Sophistication means "general knowledge." Were general knowledge more rare, the American people less informed, this country might look forward to almost any kind of government, from a mild dictatorship to a tyranny of the most oppressive type. But sophistication alone has never saved and never will save this nation from the evils of the selfish. What then has? What will?

A country's extended general liberty, stability and happiness depend largely upon the literacy of its bourgeoisie. Of course the regal and moneyed barons believe that good government can be achieved only thru their leadership, and the chronic serf class, unwilling to

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# What Is Your Name?

*(A Short Story)*

*By* ALBERT DUGAN

The annual marathon was one of the sports for which the little village of Summerton made elaborate preparations. Blessed, as its people believed it was, with "eternal summer," Summerton endeavored to utilize that blessing to increase its prestige and at the same time to provide amusement for its fast growing population. Thus, *pedes currandi* was adopted as an art in which every normal youth was required to participate. Twelve races were run each year: eleven preliminaries from which the winners were selected to comprise the twelfth and greatest. The winner of the annual marathon was in turn, at a festival held specially to celebrate the event, presented with a crown of laurel—the symbol of virility—and feted for a week by the most beautiful girls of the village from which he may engage a wife if he so desired.

To capture that envied position was the fondest dream of every Summertonian lad, but to Norman Fowler it had become almost a belated dream.

Fowler was known as the "Charlie Chaplin" (minus Charlie Chaplin's prestige) and as the National Failure in at least one city, two towns and five villages. It was on this account that he came to Summerton resolved to "start all over again." But he would have departed from that industrious little centre twelve months after his arrival had he not met Mary Taylor. A strong attachment grew up between the two and encouraged by the latter. Fowler had made several attempts via the marathon to make Mary his wife. The fact is that although the village beauty loved the stalwarth and massive rustic, she instinctively felt that marriage (which was proposed to her on several occasions) would be suicidal to his latent virtues. And so, the winsome girl promised to marry the National Failure only on condition that he win one of the marathons.

That was a task and everyone, including Fowler, knew it. Curiously enough, he would always lead in the preliminaries. But year after year he would finish either second or third in the annual.

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JOHN DOE

says

MY AIM IS

1 NO EXCESSES

2 LIVE SIMPLY AND FRUGALLY

3 SPEAK RARELY UNLESS SPOKEN TO

4 TO READ NOT MANY BOOKS, BUT TO UNDERSTAND, STUDY AND DIGEST THE FEW I DO READ

and

According to Mr. Rudyard Kipling:
"If you can wait and not be tired by waiting
If you can dream and not make dreams your master
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same—
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And start to build them up with worn-out tools,"

one of these days you may reach the top.

A COUPLE O' LAUGHS

Judge: You are suing the estate of the late John Doran for wages due you from January 1st, 1920 to January 1st, 1927?

Former Employee: Yes, Yuh Hannah. Mistah Doran estate was tied up, an' 'e didn' have no money, so 'e give me dis letter in his own han' writin' to prove 'e owe me that much dough.

Judge (looking at promissory note): This is Mr. Doran's handwriting and signature alright, but I don't understand. Mr. Doran died in August, 1922.

Former Employee: Ah knows dat, Yuh Hannah, thas why I change the las' 1 in 1921 to a 7.

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Mose: Womens is so talkative. Das why if I rakes for another man's wife, I wouldn't make love to her—she may tell her husband.

Rastus: Yuh voice my sentiment, Mose.

Mose: Yeah? Then let's change wives right now.

## WHY I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY, ETC.

Continued from page 4

blame itself for its condition, while probably considering its function a heritage, feels that it has a panacea in lethargy. But the fact still remains that a literate bourgeoisie is the best insurance against tyranny and decay of a nation. The bourgeoisie of the United States has been literate enough to withstand the attacks of its adversaries and it is only by continuing that average of literacy set in the past that the future of this country can remain safe for democracy.

Let us examine that average.

Of the approximately 125 million citizens of the United States, one million or a little less than 1% may be rightfully regarded as the regal and moneyed barons; nine million or a little less than 7%, the chronic serf; the rest, constituting more than 90% of our population are bourgeoisie. This number for convenience's sake may be subdivided as follows: Labor 60%; Business 20%; Profession 10%. Of this number, statistics show that more than 60% have academic training. This is conclusive proof that at least 60% of the population of the United States are a bit more equipped to think for themselves than a like

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## TAKE NOTICE!

By Anonymous

Today I walk along your street,
A bright sun trailing slowly,
I peer into each face I meet,
And see yours 'mong the lowly.

Timid I am to make approach,
To interrupt your pleasure,
To point to you the waiting coach
Bound for the town of treasure.

The fare is naught, the ticket free
To him who wouldst consider
The precious gift I now can see
Awaiting you thither.

That gift is yours if you wouldst ride
To the coach's destination,
And such a gift one knows you'd pride,
For it is -- Education.

*From "EXPERIENCES OF A HEART"*

Meador Publishing Co., Boston

*Courtesy of Meador Pub. Co.*

## WHY I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY, ETC.

Continued from page 7

percentage of another country with only an elementary education — and almost every nation on the face of the earth today keeps its majority population within the bounds of elementary knowledge. The reason is obvious! Joining a sophisticated mind to an academic environment, the result is usually favorable.

Thus I theorize that the American people know that they have nothing to fear from fly-by-night terrorists and prosaic prophets of disaster who preach economic ruin.

The present Administration has done splendid work since its accession to power and I feel that no one knows and appreciates it more than the American public.

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## WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Continued from page 5

The sponsors or Committee on matters of Sports and Amusement (an official body) knew Norman Fowler so well that whenever he entered their office to fill out the regular application form (as had to be done prior to entering the final race) would yell in unison: "Hail Charlie Chaplin! Hail the National Failure."

Our hero had become quite tired of this salutation and accordingly served notice on the Committee that he would tolerate their treatment no longer.

"In the next annual marathon," he shouted vehemently, "I am going to throw Norman Fowler and its synonym 'National Failure' in your faces." He continued, raising his voice and burning with anger as he spoke. "From now on, I'm a new man." Then moderately, reflectively and philosophically: "My name is changed from this day forth."

No one apparently remembered the incident and Fowler seemed to have forgotten it entirely. But as another year went by and another registration had to be filed, Norman again entered the office of the Committee. Instantly a series of derisive snickers appeared on the faces of all. Cryptically one inquired as he handed the applicant a blank form:

'Well, sir, what is your name?"

'Still trying," passively returned Fowler.

Fowler won his first marathon.

# Knowledge vs Exploitation

**PUBLIC MEETING**

TO BE HELD SOON

◆

***PROMINENT SPEAKERS***

WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING

◆

INTERESTING PROGRAMME

◆

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Under the Auspices of*

**NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY**

***and* EDUCATION**

NEW YORK, N. Y

# EDUCATION

*is the*

FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY

*The Negro is in Dire Need of this Weapon*

• • •

AS AN AID TO ITS ATTAINMENT

• • •

NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY

*urges*

EVERY NEGRO MAN AND WOMAN

*to read*

# EDUCATION

also to apply at its office

• • •

*For Helpful Information*

*Write, phone or call in person*

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